

REMARKS

In the last Action, restriction was required among three species; namely Species I, corresponding to Figs. 1-4B, Species II, corresponding to Figs. 5-6B, and Species III, corresponding to Figs. 7-8B. The Examiner stated that each species is patentably distinct, thereby making restriction proper. Applicant was required to elect one of the three species for further prosecution in this application and to list all claims readable on the elected species.

The Examiner further stated that claim 1, the only independent claim, is not generic to all species and applies only to Species III in that the other species do not have sidewalls "on" a base plate as set forth in claim 1 and instead recite that the sidewalls are comprised of portions of the base plate itself and therefore cannot be on the plate or on itself. The Examiner stated that if applicant elects a species other than Species III, claim 1 must be amended to read on the elected species.

In response to the restriction requirement, applicant has provisionally elected Species I, corresponding to Figs. 1-4B and lists claims 7-9, 12, 14 and 15 as being readable on the elected species. The non-elected claims have been retained in the application pending possible withdrawal

of the restriction requirement or allowance of a generic or sub-generic claim. Currently, claim 7 is believed to be generic.

It is applicant's understanding that the restriction requirement will be withdrawn upon the allowance of a generic or sub-generic claim readable on plural species including the elected species.

The last Office Action indicates that claims 1-6 are pending in this application. However, in a preliminary amendment filed by certificate of mail dated May 27, 2003, claims 1-6 were canceled without prejudice or admission and replaced by claims 7-15. Copies of the preliminary amendment and the return-receipt postcard filed therewith and stamped as "received" by the Patent Office are attached hereto.

In the event the preliminary amendment was inadvertently misplaced by the Patent Office and has not yet been entered, applicant respectfully requests entry of the copy enclosed with this response and examination of the application based upon the amendments made therein.

Claim 7 has been amended to recite that the sidewalls extend from the base plate, thereby reading on all species of the invention identified by the Examiner. Claim 14 has been amended to recite that the sidewalls and base plate comprise an integral body.

In light of the foregoing, early and favorable
action on the merits is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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MAILING CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first-class mail in an envelope addressed to: MS NON-FEE AMENDMENT, COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the date indicated below.

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Signature

September 15, 2003

Date